

***Paralister obscurus* (Kugelann) (Col.: Histeridae) in Devon – a recent record**

In his interesting note concerning the capture of the rare histerid beetle *Paralister obscurus* (Kugelann), Hance (2002. *Coleopterist* **11**(2): 71) gives the most recent confirmed record for the beetle as 1947 from Colyton, Devon, and states that it has not been known consistently from any given area. With this in mind, my own single experience of the beetle may be worth recording. In 1993, I detected a specimen in a mass of pitfall trap material which had been collected in Devon, during an ecological assessment of a farm, by my colleague Colin Plant; no further specimens were found despite five consecutive years of trapping by him along the same pitfall transect. The trap concerned was in position from 30 April to 5 June 1993 at Loynton Farm, near Shillingford, Devon only 40 kilometres north-west of Colyton, suggesting that the beetle is still in this part of Devon despite a gap of fifty years. The specimen was exhibited at the annual exhibition of The British Entomological and Natural History Society for 1994.– ALEX WILLIAMS, 40 Preston Park, Faversham, Kent ME 13 8LN.

**What value will individual field naturalists have in insect distribution recording in the future?**

The mapping of insect distributions is entirely dependent on the willingness and diligence of field naturalists collecting and passing on data. How the records are transcribed on to maps is rather irrelevant to the objective as long as safeguards are present to minimise the introduction of errors. There is nothing contentious in these statements – or is there? I sense that a change is taking place in the status ascribed to field recorders.

That flagship of atlases *The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland* (2001, by J. Asher *et al*) restricted acknowledgements for the records on which it was based, to organisations and regional coordinators, even though the technology used throughout could easily have generated the names of individual recorders. I presume economics were the justification. When cost and other considerations take precedence over the nurture of the army, the outcome of the next battle becomes less predictable, as many past military commanders have found to their cost. Recorders are human and appreciate being credited for their work. Another item of a similar nature deserves note: a short piece in this journal (*Ent. Rec.* **114**(5): 191) from the four members of the Cheshire Moth Panel reporting two macrolepidopteran species new to Cheshire collected by Ian Landucci. Should not Mr Landucci have been a co-author? He did do most of the work. Maybe these are just *lapsa memoria* and I'm being too cynical – or are they?

The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) will be a linked network of recording centres that will allow the Biological Records Centre to access all distribution records and so fulfil the legal obligation the government signed up to at the Rio Conference and elsewhere. Throughout the consultations leading up to its establishment, we campaigned for, and were assured that, the recorders' moral rights of ownership of their records would be observed and they would be acknowledged whenever records

were used. So much for assurances! The latest issue of *NBN News* (Issue 16, Winter 2002, p4) now informs us that the NBN Trust has developed a framework of legal licences that waives the intellectual property rights of the original recorder and previous data handlers! Oh dear, will we never learn from history? Are recorders such magnanimous slaves that they can be ridden over roughshod? We will have to wait and see, but if the NBN fails do not blame the recorders whose work is its building blocks. They may not like being taken for granted and their contributory role unacknowledged.— KEITH P. BLAND, 35 Charterhall Road, Edinburgh EH9 3HS.

### Some recent Suffolk (VC 25 & 26) records of the Pauper Pug *Eupithecia egenaria* H.-S. (Lep: Geometridae)

There has been some recent interest in the entomological literature regarding records of *Eupithecia egenaria* and its possible expansion in range. Steve Nash's article (*Ent. Rec.* **114**: 210-211) covered the first confirmed recording of the species for Oxfordshire and mentions that some new sites in Norfolk, Suffolk and Surrey have been discovered. I thought it might be of interest to briefly detail the recent records of this species in Suffolk that may not have previously appeared in literature.

Site	Vice-county	Grid reference	Recorder(s)	Date
Lackford	VC26	TL9742	J Chainey & J Spence	15.5.1996
Groton Wood	VC26	TL9742	Suffolk Moth Group	15.5.1998
Norton	VC26	TL9566	M Armitage, gen. det. G Martin	13.6.1998
Nowton	VC26	TL8661	S Dumican, R Eley & M Hall	29.5.1999
Nowton	VC26	TL8661	S Dumican, R Eley & M Hall	17.7.1999
Sicklesmere	VC26	TL8869	S Dumican	23.5.2000
Minsmere RSPB Reserve	VC25	TM4567	Suffolk Moth Group	2.6.2002

Small-leaved lime occurs sporadically throughout most of Suffolk, but tends to be more prevalent in the south of the county. Groton Wood is well known locally for its stands of small-leaved lime so it may not be surprising that the species was recorded at this site. In the areas of the Minsmere, Nowton and Sicklesmere records of *E. egenaria* there do not appear to be any stands of small-leaved lime but there are of the common hybrid lime. The Suffolk Moth Group meeting at Minsmere RSPB Reserve meeting on 2 June 2002 was targeted at recording this species. Two m.v. traps were operated in close vicinity to the common hybrid lime trees making up one of the avenues approaching the reserve and several *E. egenaria* were recorded in the two traps. This would appear to lend some small weight to the idea that the species may be utilising common hybrid lime as a foodplant.— TONY PRICHARD, 3 Powling Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9JR (E-mail: tony.prichard@btinternet.com).